

# Condominium Alert

Recently this agency was contacted by one of the many condominiums within our city in reference to stolen brass couplings from their stairwells. While many people may not realize what a brass coupling is, an example of the coupling is pictured below. The theft of these couplings is an ongoing problem, very similar to the copper wire thefts that continue to plague almost every construction site in the Central Florida.

Brass couplings are the couplings that cover the standpipes within high-rise condominiums and prevent any type of tampering with a water system relating to the extinguishment of fires within a building. These couplings are a very important piece of equipment. The tampering with such equipment is considered a felony according to Florida State Statutes.

Please make sure all maintenance personnel are alerted to the fact that these items are being stolen from the interior of buildings.

We have also heard they have been stolen from condominiums in Holly Hill.

Most likely this is not a prank played by kids, but more of an organized type incident involving adult individuals that are possibly selling the brass as scrap at recycling centers.

These couplings are about 1.5 pounds each of solid polished brass, and they receive a premium price at recycling centers.

If anyone sees anyone suspicious in the stairwells, or they notice these brass couplings missing please contact our agency ASAP, and inform the officers on scene if there is any possibility of video evidence that may be recovered to identify suspects.



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